

# Center Director's Safety Bulletin

Mission To VPP Still On Course For Year 2003

June 25, 2001

## Calendar of Events

### JUNE

Construction Safety  
"Build on Safety"

### JULY

Engineering for Safety

## June/July Safety Training

**June 26-28, 2001**

Laboratory Safety  
and Health

**July 9, 2001**

Crane Operations and  
Rigging Refresher

**July 12, 2001**

Forklift Safety  
Refresher

**July 10-13, 2001**

Construction Safety

**July 18, 2001**

CPR

Contact the  
Learning Center at  
3-2996 for a video  
on "Heat Stress"

## Construction Safety

Times sure have changed! Safety at the turn of the century was only an afterthought. Today, safety is an area that must be skillfully managed and closely monitored. Accidents and lost time due to injury can cost thousands of dollars in fines, lost productivity, increased workers' compensation premiums, and employee medical bills. As a whole, the construction industry has made significant progress in reducing injury and illness rates. However, more construction workers die on the job than employees in any other field.

Effective management of worker safety and health protection is a decisive factor in reducing the extent and severity of work-related injuries, illnesses, and related costs. In 1982, OSHA began to approve worksites with exemplary safety and health management programs for participation in Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP); and in 1989, OSHA issued recommended guidelines for the effective management and protection of worker safety and health. These guidelines are summarized in the following paragraphs:

- Employers are advised and encouraged to institute and maintain, in their establishments, a program that provides adequate systematic policies, procedures, and practices to protect their employees from, and allow them to recognize, job-related safety and health hazards.
- An effective program includes provisions for the systematic identification, evaluation, and prevention or control of general workplace hazards, specific job hazards, and potential hazards that may arise from foreseeable conditions.
- Although compliance with the law, including specific OSHA standards, is an important objective, an effective program looks beyond specific requirements of the law to address all hazards. It will seek to prevent injuries and illnesses, whether or not compliance is at issue.
- The extent to which the program is described in writing is less important than how effective it is in practice.
- Employee involvement provides the means by which workers develop and/or express their own commitment to safety and health protection for themselves and for others.

At the NASA Glenn Research Center (GRC), it is GRC's policy that an employee's health and safety is the highest priority. Chapter 17 of the Glenn Safety Manual describes policies and minimal safety and health requirements for all construction activities performed within the confines of GRC and the Plum Brook Station. Chapter 17 ensures that all persons performing construction related activities are working in a safe and healthful environment. It also ensures that all persons engaged in construction-related activities shall meet or exceed the minimum safety and health requirements, and comply with all other Federal, State and local codes and standards where required, including all NASA Agencies and GRC policies and/or procedures.

Construction activities are defined as activities that result in building new or modifying structures, such as alterations and repairs, routine institutional maintenance, working on utility systems and process piping, working on facility equipment and research hardware, and painting or decorating.

Today, safety is an area that must be skillfully managed and closely monitored. Accidents and lost time due to injury can cost thousands of dollars in fines, lost productivity, employee medical bills, etc. However, as a whole, the construction industry has made significant progress in reducing injury and illness rates. With industry as our model, we can continue our team effort with safety and security as our foremost objective.

**REMEMBER: Mission Success Starts with Safety**